

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

SUMMARY

The consensus of the public comment period was that the National Park Service was pursuing the correct path for Saratoga National Historical Park in Alternative D, the preferred alternative. The following section outlines the oral and written comments received, along with corresponding responses.

Many people, representing the views of individuals and organizations, suggested refinements to ideas presented in the draft plan, or sought clarification on certain points. We thank all who responded to the call for comments and ask that the public continue to voice their concerns and suggestions to park managers as implementation planning gets underway.

Federal guidelines specify that we give responses to comments that are “substantive.” Comments are considered substantive when they:

- Reasonably question the accuracy of information
- Reasonably question the adequacy of analysis
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those presented
- Cause changes or revisions to the proposal

We attempted to reply to comments requesting clarification or making detailed suggestions, even if these comments are not defined as “substantive.” Even so, it may appear that some thoughtful and useful ideas were not heard. This is not the case. Although a comment may not have triggered a reply from us, or caused a change to the general management plan or environmental impact statement, these ideas and suggestions, many of which are more appropriate to subsequent planning, are documented in this record and will be taken under consideration as implementation plans are developed.

ORAL COMMENTS

The planning team held a public open house on January 22, 2004 at the park’s visitor center in Stillwater, New York. Approximately 45 people attended the open house (although some in attendance did not record their names on the sign-in sheet). Points raised at the open house, along with an explanatory response, are summarized below. Several of these points are also raised in the written comment section.

Comment: Inconsistencies exist in the definition of the terms Schuyler House, Schuyler House grounds, and Schuyler Estate.

Response: To clarify the terminology, definitions of the terms have been added to the glossary and text changes have been made on pages 19 and 96 via the errata.

Comment: The park needs to broaden its interpretive focus to embrace diverse populations. The interpretive sub-theme relating to General Schuyler is too narrowly defined to enable interpretation of women and African Americans.

Response: Interpretive themes presented in the draft general management plan provide a framework for more detailed exposition through subsequent planning and application. The themes were the result of a consensus reached at a workshop in March 2000 when some 30 scholars and resource specialists convened to define the most important stories to be told at Saratoga National Historical Park. The interpretation of diverse populations was a major topic at the workshop. The participants specifically developed the first sub-theme under “People: At Saratoga—by Choice or by Chance” (outlined on page 32) to embrace “men and women, soldier and civilian, free and enslaved, and those of many nations.” This sub-theme lays the foundation to broaden the park’s interpretive focus to embrace diverse populations, including the women and African Americans associated with the Schuyler family.

Comment: The term ‘interpretive media’ is not defined in the draft plan.

Response: A definition of that term has been added to the glossary for clarification via the errata.

Comment: There is concern that the Old Saratoga Historical Association was not sufficiently consulted during the planning process.

Response: The “Summary of Planning” section on pages 207–208 describes the points during the process at which the planning team sought input from the public, including the Old Saratoga Historical Association. In addition to those opportunities for input, during the preparation of the draft plan, the Superintendent and the President of the Old Saratoga Historical Association exchanged numerous letters clarifying various planning questions and issues.

Comment: Consider having trolley tours on the tour road with ranger-led interpretation.

Response: Alternative D calls for exploring the possibility of offering special interpretive tours using specifically designed alternative-fueled vehicles.

Comment: Consider having ranger-led canal tours.

Response: Alternative D calls for supporting partners’ efforts to develop water-based thematically related interpretive tours. This proposal relies on partners’ efforts, as the navigable portions of the historic Champlain Canal are located outside the park boundary.

Comment: Consider developing a computerized searchable database of the participants in the battles for visitor use.

Response: This is an interesting idea that will be shared with those developing implementation plans for the park’s interpretive programming.

Comment: Parking should be available for Victory Woods and also signs along the trail.

Response: Alternative D calls for developing an interpretive trail through Victory Woods and making the site accessible to visitors.

Comment: Schuyler House tours should include all rooms currently opened to the public fully furnished with period furnishings.

Response: Alternative D calls for utilizing “a combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media in Schuyler House that best describes the story of the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga.” Fleshing out how this will be accomplished is the task of the Long Range Interpretive Plan, which will be conducted with stakeholder involvement.

Comment: Install a pathway leading from the Schuyler House to the Hudson River to establish a ‘visible connection’ to the river. The pathway should be lined on both sides with lilac bushes (a stated favorite of Philip Schuyler). The Hudson River provided a route to port cities and to the world. Showcase that connection.

Response: Alternative D calls for reestablishing views to the Hudson River and Fish Creek, as well as identifying and rehabilitating landscape features that reflect the use of the site from 1720 to 1847. Any modification to the circulation system or plantings will be guided by historic precedent.

Comment: Locate the Old Saratoga visitor facility at/near the existing Champlain Canal visitor building. This would help tie together or link a sequence from the battles to industrial expansion in post war period.

Response: Selecting the location of the Old Saratoga visitor facility is the task of a Development Concept Plan.

Comment: To keep the story alive, hold an annual open house and parade with costumed reenactors from Victory Woods and Saratoga Monument to Fort Hardy Park, as was done on the 225th anniversary. It should be a regular event, not an occasional reminder.

Response: This is an interesting idea that will be shared with those developing implementation plans for the park’s interpretive programming.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Each comment letter received during the official comment period (and a few days beyond) is reprinted in the following section. The comment letters are presented in the order in which they were post-marked. The comment letter is presented in the left column of each page and any reply is in the right column. Following is a list of the organizations, agencies, officials, and individuals that submitted written comments.

Federal Agencies

United States Environmental Protection Agency

State Agencies

New York State Canal Corporation

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

State of Vermont, Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Division for Historic Preservation

Municipalities

Town of Saratoga, Historian (two comment letters)

Organizations

Bateaux Below, Inc.

Old Saratoga Historical Association

Old Saratoga on the Hudson

Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce

Individuals

L&J Alheim

Ray Beede

J. Borel

Richard Crammond

Helen Crawshaw

Lawrence A. DeLong

George DeMere

Mildred and Nelson Drew

C.R. Fosdick

Dr. Glenn Haas

William M. Herrlich

C.A. Holmes

Dan Hughes

Nicholas Mancinelli

David Mathis

Nick Nichols

Patti Nichols

Matilda J. and Herbert B. Nolte

Barbara Putnam

Robert K. Radliff, Jr.

Scott Stoner

Steve Trimm

Mail Back Form

Please let us know what you think of the preferred **Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign**. Share your thoughts by e-mail, or by filling out this card and faxing or mailing it back to us. Please see our contact information below. Thank you for your input!

What do you think are the strength and weaknesses of Preferred Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign?

As the Tourism Promotion Agency Director for the county & the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce, I applaud the recommendations put forth in Alternative D of options for the Park's future.

The proposed changes would greatly enhance the county's ability to attract more visitors to the Saratoga Natl. Historical Park & the County as a whole.

*Linda Toohey, Exec. V.P.
Saratoga Co. Chamber of Commerce*

Please share your comments:

E-mail: sara_info@nps.gov Fax: 518-664-9830 Or simply fill out this card, stamp, and mail.

**Linda Toohey, Executive Vice President
Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce**

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

Mail Back Form

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What do you think are the strength and weaknesses of Preferred Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign?

THOSE OF US THAT SERVED
IN THE MILITARY ESPECIALLY
APPLAUDE YOUR EFFORTS TO
IMPROVE THE KNOWLEDGE OF
OUR NATIONS HERITAGE THROUGH
YOUR SPLENDID AMBITIOUS UPSCALE
PLAN FOR SARATOGA.

N. Mancinelli
Waterford 12/31/03

Please share your comments:

E-mail: sara_info@nps.gov Fax: 518-664-9830 Or simply fill out this card, stamp, and mail.

Nicholas Mancinelli

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

Mail Back Form

Lawrence A DeLong

Please let us know what you think of the preferred **Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign**. Share your thoughts by e-mail, or by filling out this card and faxing or mailing it back to us. Please see our contact information below. Thank you for your input!

What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of Preferred Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign?

- ① Favor Alternative D as the most comprehensive approach, directed at the widest areas of need. Also best use of funds.
- ② D has no mention of recreational uses such as hiking, horse trails, cross-country, etc.
- ③ Map on page 10 doesn't reflect goal to have tour sequence follow battle progression. Not sure how this can be done at any rate.
- ④ Not clear how character of battlefield and "contemplative" factors are to be presented - signs, visual depictions, audios, etc. Audios presently in use at stops need to be replaced with clear, factual accounts of events.
- ⑤ Thanks for opportunity to comment.

Please share your comments:

E-mail: sara_info@nps.gov Fax: 518-664-9830 Or simply fill out this card, stamp, and mail.

Lawrence A DeLong

Lawrence A. DeLong

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

Item 2:

- For reasons of brevity, the draft plan summary newsletter included highlights of the alternatives, but could not go into depth on all aspects of the draft plan. Recreational uses such as hiking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing are addressed on pages 53–54 of the plan. The following objective regarding recreational uses is common to all alternatives: *Public activities are systematically evaluated for appropriateness before they are permitted. Visitor traffic (including pedestrian, bicycle, and horse traffic) is managed to protect critical park resources and visitor experiences. And, recreational use of the park is tied to its educational purposes to the greatest extent possible.* Pages 53–54 outline ways in which park managers will work toward achieving this objective.

Item 3 & 4:

- The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. Subsequent planning efforts, such as the Long Range Interpretive Plan, which will be conducted with stakeholder input, will detail modifications to the tour sequence and how the character and contemplative nature of the battlefield are to be presented. We welcome your input and encourage you to stay involved in the development of the implementation plans.

"Robert Radliff"

01/04/2004 06:11 PM EST

Bob Radliff

To: <sara_info@nps.gov>

cc:

Subject: general management plan

January 4, 2004

Doug Lindsay, Superintendent
Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170-1604

Dear Superintendent Lindsay:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft General Management Plan Summary recently mailed to my home. As a local resident, and a frequent visitor to the Park, I wholeheartedly appreciate and support your efforts to properly manage the Park and plan for its future. I want this Park to be as beautiful, protected and well-managed twenty years from now as it is today.

Generally, I am confident in your vision for the future, as described in the preferred Alternative D. Rather than focusing on "fine-tuning" some of the highlights and strategies, I prefer to share my thoughts on issues apparently not thoroughly addressed in the report. My primary concerns are not only within the park boundaries, but also outside of them.

I would like to see SNHP take a more proactive role in planning and land use issues in Stillwater and the surrounding area. As a model land steward, SNHP should demonstrate leadership, share its knowledge and its expertise with others, where appropriate. I understand that there is a certain sensitivity between federal and local governments, however, the Park's local presence and importance entitles it to be more outspoken as to what local projects or issues may impact the Park.

The plan's common references to "expanding partnerships" are important, not only for the historical and recreational linkages, but also for the preservation of the "rural character" of the area. Partnerships should include Town Boards, Planning Boards, nonprofit organizations, and others concerned with wise land use, environmental and historic preservation, and sustainable economic development. Through sound long-range planning, inside and outside of the Park, the visitors' experience will be enhanced and the Town of Stillwater, the Park's permanent host, will be strengthened both environmentally and economically.

For example, one local land use issue I think the Park should be very concerned about is the proposed "Luther Forest Technology Campus," or, alternatively, the "Factories in the Forest." If 1,350 acres are rezoned by the Towns of Malta and Stillwater as a Planned Development District, this 15-25 year project would allow four mega chip factories and other ancillary uses on the Malta -- Stillwater town line. This project will have a significant negative impact on the Park, both in terms of viewsheds (estimated 150+ tons per year of air emissions, including Hazardous Air Pollutants, blowing easterly over the park and its vistas) and in terms of the area's rural character (the induced growth impacts of this project, such as the

Robert K. Radliff, Jr.

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- For reasons of brevity, the draft plan summary newsletter included highlights of the alternatives, but could not go into depth on all aspects of the draft plan. Stewardship of the park's rural setting is addressed on pages 56–57 of the plan. The following objective regarding the park's rural setting is common to all alternatives: *Park managers and partners work together to increase understanding of the region's natural resources, and to identify, minimize, and mitigate activities that would generate negative impacts—such as air and water pollution, lighting that would diminish the quality of the night sky, excessive noise, and visual intrusions within key park views—that detract from the values of the park.* Pages 56–57 outline ways in which park managers will work toward achieving this objective.

proposed new water line from the Hudson River through the agricultural heart of Stillwater, have yet to be estimated and, therefore, are not understood). For more information on a local citizen group's efforts to inform the public about the substantial negative impacts of the Luther Forest proposal, please visit maltatechpark.com

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft plan. I would be happy to share additional thoughts, comments, or suggestions with you. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Radliff, Jr.

Mail Back Form

Please let us know what you think of the preferred **Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign**. Share your thoughts by e-mail, or by filling out this card and faxing or mailing it back to us. Please see our contact information below. Thank you for your input!

What do you think are the strength and weaknesses of Preferred Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign?

I definitely favor Alternative D, which pulls together all of the park's sites and resources. This would appear to be a good time for renewal. Especially, as our country matures, the interest in our historical legacy, as exemplified by the campaign of 1787, will continue to grow and be more appreciated.

Please share your comments:

E-mail: sara_info@nps.gov Fax: 518-664-9830 Or simply fill out this card, stamp, and mail.

J. Borel

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

Mail Back Form

Please let us know what you think of the preferred **Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign**. Share your thoughts by e-mail, or by filling out this card and faxing or mailing it back to us. Please see our contact information below. Thank you for your input!

What do you think are the strength and weaknesses of Preferred Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign?

*We agree with Alternative D. It's very
ambitious but we think it's good.*

*Matilda J. Nolte
and
Norbert B. Nolte*

Please share your comments:

E-mail: sara_info@nps.gov **Fax:** 518-664-9830 Or simply fill out this card, stamp, and mail.

Matilda J. & Norbert B. Nolte

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

"Ray Beede"

01/18/2004 10:57 AM EST

To: <sara_info@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: Draft of General Management Plan: Comments On

The following comments are offered. I understand that some of these items may have been considered and dismissed without documentation.

1. Computer generated graphics could be displayed to show troop movement and the building of fortifications. These could be supplemented with digital photographs of the terrain appropriate for the events on each date. These might be shown at the visitor center and at appropriate STOPS.
2. Examples of the British and American fortifications (say 20 yards) could be constructed at an appropriate site when field/forest boundaries are re-established.
3. Markers for original farm building locations and farms that could be seen from any planned roadway or trail would enhance the visitors understanding of the historic battles. The historic documents describe the events in terms of farms and/or buildings.
4. Paragraph 3 on page 51 uses the words "herbaceous forbs". The words are not contained in the glossary and are probably not understood by most readers.
5. Extending the road from STOP 3 toward Bemis Heights (and the extension of surfaced walkways) would add to the meaning of this presently isolated area.
6. A third automated fee collection at the old south park entrance on highway #32 is suggested. This would allow another loop in the roadway. The collection site would be connected to the current roadway near the Neilson site.
7. Is an entrance fee required (by law)? If no, what is the savings, if any? If yes, what are the costs and manpower required to administer and maintain?
8. An "easement" is indicated on non-park lands on the map on page 25. No discussion of this was noted. Is the easement for all park employees? For park volunteers? Electric utility employees?
9. If bicycles were made available, by concession or otherwise, I would suggest that the four-wheel pedicycle be considered also. It would allow young families to visit and tour at a more leisurely pace.
10. The phrase "----removal of the modern National Park Service residence and shed" was stated on page 146. I noted no other discussion. Will it be replaced? If so, is the cost in each of the four alternatives?
11. I agree that improved landmarks would improve the visitor's experience in understanding the events of September-October. In my years of visiting the park (primarily for biking about twice a week from say April through October since 1991), I have not developed a satisfactory understanding of events with locations.

Sincerely
Ray L. Beede

Ray Beede

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. Subsequent planning efforts, which will be conducted with stakeholder input, will detail how the objectives for visitor use and experience are to be realized (points 1, 2, and 3), how the Route 32 entrance and tour route are to be modified (points 5 and 6), and how bicycles can be made available to visitors (point 9).
- The term, "herbaceous forbs," has been added to the glossary via the errata (point 4).
- The cost to administer and maintain the fee is addressed on page 127 of the draft plan (point 7).
- The potential easements shown on the map on page 25 are lands over which the NPS has the legislative authority to hold less-than-fee interests (point 8).
- Alternative D proposes to remove (and not replace) the modern National Park Service residence and shed (point 10).
- We understand and appreciate the difficulty of "reading" the landscape without visual cues (point 11). A key objective of Alternative D is to help improve visitor understanding of the events of 1777 by rehabilitating key landscape features.

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
DRAFT GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN
COMMENT SHEET

Please share your thoughts with us.

What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of Preferred Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign?

*Best all around, everyone wins - including the
public gaining knowledge!*

What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of the other alternatives?

Please mail this sheet to:
Saratoga National Historical Park
Attn: Superintendent
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170-1604

Or fax it to: 518-664-9830 THANK YOU!

*C.A. Holmes Schuylersville, etc —
01.22.04*

C.A. Holmes

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

01/25/2004 06:02 PM EST

To: Sara_Info@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: draft, management plan

Bateaux Below, Inc.

Mr. Doug L. Lindsay
Superintendent
Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, New York 12170

Dear Doug:

Hello.

I would like to comment on the recently released draft general management plan draft environmental impact statement for Saratoga National Historical Park.

First, on page 211, the publication has misspelled Bateaux Below. In the publication it is spelled "Bateau Below," which is incorrect.

Second, throughout the publication it refers to the Burgoyne Campaign in the "Champlain-Hudson and Mohawk valleys." The 32-mile long Lake George is not in the Champlain Valley, Hudson Valley, or Mohawk valleys. Generally, we refer to it as the Lake Champlain, Lake George, and Hudson River valley corridor. Lake George played in integral role in the 1777 Burgoyne campaign, especially Fort George and the Battle of Diamond Island.

Third, although Lake George, Fort George, and Diamond Island are labeled on the map on page 5, I was disappointed to notice no mention of them as well as the Brown raid, etc. in Larry Lowenthal's "Historical Overview" section. If this is to be a true management plan for the interpretation of the British campaign of 1777 that ended on the grounds of Saratoga, then a more inclusive job about the totality of the campaign needs to be developed. I fully realize that the principal objective of the battlefield relates to the two Saratoga battles. Nevertheless, I think there should be a little more attention directed to the full campaign, including Lake George, that culminated on the banks of the Hudson River at Saratoga.

Fourth, Russell P. Bellico's book, *Sails and Steam in the Mountains: A Maritime and Military History of Lake George and Lake Champlain* (Purple Mountain Press, Fleischmanns, New York, 2001) is a book that should be included in your publication's "Appendix G: Selected Resources Consulted." It does a fine job addressing the Burgoyne campaign at Lake Champlain and Lake George.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this and good luck with this long process.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Zarzynski,
Underwater Archaeologist & Executive Director

Joseph Zarzynski
Bateaux Below

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- The spelling of Bateaux Below has been corrected via errata. We regret the error.
- The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. The overall thematic framework as presented in the draft general management plan will be developed in greater detail by the Long Range Interpretive Plan. The interpretive plan, which will be conducted with stakeholder input, will provide an opportunity to flesh out the themes by bringing in related sites. We welcome your input and encourage you to stay involved in the development of the implementation plans.
- The historical overview in the draft plan is intended as a sweeping general historical summary, not only of the Burgoyne Campaign, but of subsequent land use on the battlefields. As such, it cannot highlight every associated site or event.

1-25-04

Superintendent
Saratoga National Historic Site
648 Route 32
Stillwater
New York

Dear Sir:

I'm delighted by the recently-released Draft General Management Plan Summary. The time is long past due for the Old Saratoga Unit to be more formally and publically connected to the Battlefield Unit. It has always seemed to me that half of the Saratoga story has been overlooked, and that the last days of Burgoyne's army are an epic tale within the greater epic.

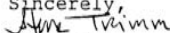
No one's more aware than you are that huge chunks of the terrain important to the events of 1777 are outside the boundaries of the National Historic Park. I'm thinking in particular of the place Burgoyne's army grounded arms, Fort Hardy Park, the Riedesel House, Stark's Knob and the spot where Burgoyne offered his sword to Gates. To awaken the public to the existence and meaning of these locales, would it be feasible to open a small interpretive center in Schuylerville itself? I'm not thinking of anything on the scale of the Visitors' Center at the battlefield. Rather, I'm thinking along the lines of a rehabilitated storefront on Schuylerville's main street.

A small center of this type would orient tourists coming into the area from the North and, potentially, help the economy of Schuylerville a little, thereby enhancing the town's ties to and support of the National Historic Park.

One thing I did not see mentioned in the summary, and which I recognize might not have been appropriate for the document: As PCBs are dredged from the Hudson River, there's a chance that artifacts will come to light. Is there going to be, in essence, an archeologist on call to monitor the dredging as it progresses?

I descend from a Revolutionary War soldier who moved to Old Saratoga after the war, and I therefore have a special interest in Schuylerville. If there are opportunities for doing volunteer work in connection with the Old Saratoga Unit, I'd very much like to hear of them. What's the best way to stay informed?

Again, I'm pleased and excited by what I read in the plan summary. I wish you good fortune in implementing the plan, and would like to help, if I can.

Sincerely,

Steve Trimm

Steve Trimm

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- As you note, many sites related to the Burgoyne Campaign lie outside the park boundary. It is not considered feasible to expand the park boundary to include them, as described on page 84 of the plan. That is why the plan places great emphasis on establishing productive partnerships with the owners of thematically associated properties.
- Alternative D calls for a visitor orientation facility in Old Saratoga (the villages of Schuylerville and Victory), as you suggest.
- You raise a valid point about the possibility of finding artifacts while dredging PCB-contaminated soil. Any undertaking of this kind will require compliance with Section 106 of the National Preservation Act and will include provisions to protect these historic resources. Please note that any such dredging would be conducted by agencies other than the National Park Service.

DAVID MATHIS



30 January 04

Doug Lindsay, Superintendent
Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170-1604

Re: General Management Plan

Dear Superintendent Lindsay,

In reviewing the general management plan, I could find no plan for boaters traveling on the Hudson River to access the park. As we know, the Hudson River was a major factor in the Revolution as well as most of the area history.

An increased visitation rate is a common goal for managers of public use lands and facilities. Although over 99% of the motor vehicles passing the park are probably local and have little interest in stopping, the vast majority of the large boats passing on the river have vacationing families.

The 60 mile Champlain Canal system is an all day trip for boats traveling between the entrances at Waterford and Whitehall. The Saratoga National Park is approximately half way and would provide a very attractive educational and recreational stop for families on a boating vacation. Unfortunately, the only park access for boaters is to stop in Stillwater or Schuylerville and hire a cab or rent a car from the City of Saratoga, hardly appealing options

You may recall our conversation earlier this month regarding the lack of a dock to allow vacationing boaters to access the park. Your reply that the PCBs are real high in that area should be examined. How high is the level of PCBs? Is the level high enough to exclude visitors? Before rejecting a plan for river access, the situation should be evaluated by experts to determine just what level of threat is presented by the substance. You may be aware that the river adjacent to the park, the area where a dock would most likely

David Mathis

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. Alternate modes of park touring are addressed on pages 54–55 of the plan in the “Objectives Common to All Alternatives” section, which calls for consideration of a transit system linking the park with points of waterborne access should visitor patterns warrant.
- Alternative D, on page 83, calls for the National Park Service to provide water access for pleasure craft at appropriate locations within the park.
- Subsequent planning, which will be conducted with stakeholder input and environmental compliance, will detail how water access and linkages with waterborne access points will be provided. This subsequent planning will also evaluate the environmental implications of PCBs associated with the proposed actions.

be placed, is a popular swimming and water-skiing area. In checking the EPA Hudson River site maps, I find that the closest PCB hot spot is about a mile downstream.

Since the general management plan is to span the next 15 to 20 years, a dock of sufficient length to hold at least two 30 to 35 foot boats should be included in the plan even if construction is not anticipated until completion of the five to six year PCB removal dredging project.

A boater access structure could make the Saratoga National Historical Park the most important family oriented boating vacation destination on the canal system.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. H. Hake", is positioned below the text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.



TOWN of SARATOGA

30 FERRY STREET PO BOX 38
SCHUYLERVILLE, NY 12871

TELEPHONE # (518) 695-3644
FAX # (518) 695-6782



February 12, 2004

Doug Lindsey, Superintendent
Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170

Dear Doug:

I am writing to you at the Historian of the Town of Saratoga regarding the draft general management plan for the Saratoga National Historical Park. I think the plan is a very good plan for the community. In general, I am very supportive of it. I have some concerns and unfortunately it is easier to point out concerns rather than items that I think are good. Please do not see this as list of complaints but small areas of concern where I think the Park might be able to do better.

Issue: Victory Woods

The National Park acquired Victory Woods about 30 years ago and has done next to nothing with it. The current Plan calls for the Park to reestablish interpretive and historic views critical to the military use, which will be a great opportunity to explain the Siege of Saratoga. Currently, this third part of the Battles of Saratoga is very poorly explained. Victory Woods is a great resource because it does contain some of the original earthworks and roads that are over 225 year old. This Plan also takes advantage of the National Park's strength in developing interpretive and historic landscapes.

The Park Plan calls for developing an interpretive trail through Victory Woods. This can very easily be a walking trail from the Saratoga Monument to Victory Woods with numbers on a post and a brochure to explain sites. Over the next 20 years, it would be nice if the Park developed interpretive media (waysides) to interpret the siege because it is so misunderstood. In addition, it would be nice if the park enhanced pedestrian access to Victory Woods via a small parking area (the Park is proposing similar actions off Route 32 near Bemis Heights in Stillwater). This is also an important site for Schuyler Park as the sites are linked physically though pedestrian, bicycle, and auto routes.

Issue: Education and Visitors Center

The National Park is calling for developing at an appropriate location in Old Saratoga, a new facility that includes exhibits highlighting other sites in the region. This will provide an orientation to the entire Park at the beginning of the visitor's experience. This is a great opportunity for the community. The community should see increase visitation at a visitors center which should help the economy of the region.

Sean Kelleher
Historian, Town of Saratoga

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- We appreciate your support for the bulk of the plan and are pleased that the Town of Saratoga and the National Park Service have reached consensus on the general direction for the future of Saratoga National Historical Park. We look forward to working with you to implement the plan.
- We agree that one of the achievements of this planning process was to confirm the importance of Victory Woods and to lay the foundation for including it in the interpretive program.
- We are in agreement with the majority of the points you raise in your letter, however, many of those points are outside the purview of this general level of planning. The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. As you suggest, Alternative D calls for: developing an interpretive trail through Victory Woods; developing a visitor orientation facility in Old Saratoga with exhibits; developing a trail along Fish Creek; and, rehabilitating the Saratoga Monument grounds to reflect their original design. Subsequent planning efforts, including a Long Range Interpretive Plan and a Development Concept Plan will be conducted with stakeholder input and will flesh out these concepts in greater detail. We welcome your input and encourage you to stay involved in the development of the implementation plans.

The call for orientation and an education center are great for the community and will fit in with the Schuyler Park plan.

It would be nice to see the Plan include interpretation at the visitors center of the Siege and Surrender at Saratoga. The “turning point of the revolution” is very important, however, the Park’s Plan has very little emphasis on telling this story.

It would also be nice to see the Park’s Plan focus on the Fish Creek and Hudson River. The Fish Creek is a great opportunity to explain that the community has played host to three revolutions – a revolution of thoughts and guns – the American Revolution, the revolution of transportation through the development of the canal, and a revolution of manufacturing with the Industrial Revolution. Native peoples first used the Fish Creek for fishing and transportation, then Schuyler and others established mills to create great wealth. This source of power allowed for the larger mills of the 19th and 20th Century. Today, the Fish Creek is still a source of power. In addition, the Hudson River and Champlain Canals were the superhighways of their day getting the product to market. The 2.5 miles of the Fish Creek from the Hudson River through the Village of Victory are some of the most historic lands in this country. Empires were won and lost along the Fish Creek and it is an important story to tell.

Finally, the visitors center should have a theme called “tribute to freedom”. As Governor Pataki pointed out, the Spirit of New Yorkers at the Battles of Saratoga is still alive today. The Battles of Saratoga are a crucible of American freedom because ordinary New Yorkers, farmers and merchants, fathers and sons, left their daily lives, rallied by the thousands to defeat the greatest empire on earth and gave rise to American freedoms. The Governor continues to say that the story of September 11th is very much the story of Saratoga, the story of New York, the story of one generation of New Yorkers who fought to secure freedom and another who rallied to defend it. It’s the story of heroes.

Unfortunately, the current Park proposal calls for a highlight on other sites in the region. A similar proposal has been made by the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor in Waterford, NY and they have received funding for their proposal. A visitors center for the community is important, however, the theme developed is similar to a theme already being developed by the Park Service 25 miles to the South. This is a great opportunity for the Park to expand its approach on the visitors center.

Issue: Expand the Schuyler Estate

In general the expansion of the Schuyler Estate would be a nice addition to the community. There are three small areas of concern.

The park should work to improve its relationship with the Old Saratoga Historical Association. Old Saratoga Historical Association is our community organization that has provides (bought or acquired on loan) antique furnishings for the Schuyler House and has a long history of interpreting the house. Some of the management plans have called for changing the furnished house to a more museum approach with “interpretive displays.” The proposed plan is not specific in the future interpretation of the Schuyler House. It is important that the park continues to work with and improves relations with our community organizations that have a 45 year history with the property.

The Interpretive Themes reflects an early interpretation of history focused on rich, white, military men and I would like to see future interpretation include the diversity of the Schuyler Estate historic occupants, in particular Schuyler’s family. I outline this in more depth in a separate letter.

This site and all the sites in the Old Saratoga Unit are only open seasonally. Currently, that means Memorial Day to Labor Day (late May, June, July, and August) along with weekends at the Saratoga Monument until Columbus Day. A review of Recreational Users of the Saratoga National Historical Park

2

- Alternative D calls for a facility to be developed in Old Saratoga that would include park-wide visitor orientation, as well as a showcase gallery that highlights other sites in the region. This is not a duplicative effort with the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor visitor center at Peebles Island State Park. That facility will provide a geographic orientation to the Mohawk and Hudson River junctions and the intersection of the Erie and Champlain Canals, and highlight visitor attractions within a 15-mile radius.
- The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. As you suggest, Alternative D calls for utilizing “a combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media in Schuyler House that best describes the story of the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga.” Fleshing out how this will be accomplished is the task of the Long Range Interpretive Plan, which will be conducted with stakeholder input. We welcome your input and encourage you to stay involved in the development of the Long Range Interpretive Plan.
- See response to this point in the following letter.
- The length of season and days of operation per week of park facilities are subject to the availability of funding for staff salaries and supporting expenses. A general management plan cannot predict or provide increased level of funding for such additional services. The park will always evaluate the desirability of increased visitor services when formulating budget needs.

show increase visitation in July, August, September, and October. The Park, over the next 20 years, needs to evaluate when the “seasonal” time that the Old Saratoga Unit is open so that it reflects the high visitation to the Park. It is estimated that the switch of 5 weeks from late May and June to September and early October may increase visitation in Old Saratoga by over 2,000 visitors annually and could have an economic impact of \$317,000 a year. In addition, there is a need to expand the season and the number of days of operation. It would be nice to see a seven day operation in the next 20 years. Especially as a visitors center is built. In addition, the current days the sites are open is Wednesday through Sunday. An analyst should be done to see if being open on “Dark Tuesdays” when the Saratoga Race Track is in operation might increase the attendance at the Old Saratoga Unit.

Issue: Build a maintenance area in the Old Saratoga Unit

The goal of having a maintenance area in the Old Saratoga Unit is valid. It would support the operations on the Old Saratoga Unit. Placement of this area has been given little consideration. The Park plan actually has only one place that the maintenance area can be developed which is along Route 4 south of the driveway for the current NY DOT maintenance area. It seems that the NPS plan call for moving the NY DOT maintenance area away from the Schuyler Estate and then building a NPS maintenance area (a smaller area) approximately 600 yards away. This might be the best solution, however I suggest that the General Management Plan should call for the NPS to explore developing and operating the Old Saratoga maintenance area jointly with partners.

Issue: Rehabilitate the Saratoga Monument grounds to reflect the original formal design.

This is an important goal. The Saratoga Monument looks to me like it is missing something. The formal design rehabilitated using good horticultural practices could add to the site. The use of landscape is one of the strengths that the National Park has as an organization.

Common Issues in the Old Saratoga Unit

The Park Plan does not focus on interpreting the siege. In the past, the Park did a great job of looking at the first two acts – the battles but skipping the third act – the siege. Now the plan calls for an introduction – explaining the campaign. The Plan must also focus on the siege and the climax of the endeavor that actually surrender which happened in Old Saratoga.

The Park Plan mentions partnerships with regional partners however it would be best if the Park said local and regional partners. The communities and organizations that make up the Old Saratoga unit should not be taken for granted.

The Park plans need to be updated to reflect current conditions – not the conditions that were present a year ago. A review of the plan shows organizations like Old Saratoga / New Schuylerville (ceased operations in Fall, 2003) and the plan does not reflect initiatives like Schuyler Park.

Thank you for your consideration of these issue and the opportunity to comment on the plan.

Sincerely,



Sean Kelleher
Historian, Town of Saratoga

- The draft general management plan does not specify the location of the maintenance facility. The siting of that facility will be determined through subsequent planning, which will include stakeholder input, and which will consider historic landscape values and viewshed protection in the deliberations.
- As described on page 78, Alternative D calls for interpreting “the battles, siege, and surrender within the broader context of the Burgoyne Campaign.”
- It is assumed that local groups are embraced within the region.
- The title “Old Saratoga/New Schuylerville” has been replaced with group’s current title, “*Old Saratoga on the Hudson*,” via the errata.



TOWN of SARATOGA
30 FERRY STREET PO BOX 38
SCHUYLERVILLE, NY 12871

TELEPHONE # (518) 695-3644
FAX # (518) 695-6782



February 12, 2004

Doug Lindsey, Superintendent
Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170

Dear Doug:

I am writing to you at the Historian of the Town of Saratoga regarding the Interpretive Themes in the Saratoga National Historical Park General Management Plan.

The primary responsibility of the Historian is interpretation of the past. Since the Town of Saratoga includes the Saratoga National Historical Park, the office of the Historian has a particular interest in the efforts of National Park. I am concerned about two of the interpretive themes.

Place: Grand Strategy and Victory for the New Nation

In 1777- the second year of America's War for Independence – the British sought to quell the rebellion with a single decisive military campaign. Their plan depended on using an invading army to divide the colonies along a natural corridor of rivers and lakes stretching from Canada to New York City. The American commitment to halt this invasion at Saratoga proved critical to the future of an emerging nation.

- Since pre-colonial times, the waterway of the Hudson and Mohawk River and Lakes Champlain and George had been prized as a natural routes of communication, trade and warfare – highly coveted by those seeking control of this vast inland area for its rich resources and arable land.

I would like to see Fish Creek added to this subtheme. The Fish Creek area is very important. This was the traditional hunting and fishing grounds of the Mohawks from at least the mid 17th Century. It was the invasion route of the 1666 burning of Schenectady. The 1703 Kayaderosseras Patent sold this land and caused strife with the Mohawks. The Schuyler's established their first farm in 1714 and saw mill on the Fish Creek in 1722. The Schuyler's established a plantation the banks of the Fish Creek with a large number of slaves. There was also a lot of trade that happen in the Fish Creek between the Anglo/Dutch, the Mohawks, and the Kahnawake of Montreal. In 1745, the French and Indians raided and burned Saratoga on the banks of the Fish Creek as part of the War of Austrian Succession. Saratoga at that point was the most important location for in the New York border. It is appropriate to include Fish Creek as a location because it is part of the Schuyler Estate and it played an important role in trade and warfare.

People: At Saratoga – By Choice or By Chance

Today, the winning of American independence seems to have been inevitable. But it was actually the results of many individual decisions and sacrifices made by people from all walks of life. Their determination in surmounting overwhelming odds was an early example of what is recognized now as the American spirit – the will and ability to shape a better future

Sean Kelleher
Historian, Town of Saratoga

Thank you for your comments.

- Fish Creek is a tributary of the Hudson River, as are the Battenkill and the Kroma Kill, all three of which influenced the Burgoyne Campaign. For that reason, its inclusion is assumed in the interpretive sub-theme you highlight.

- General Philip Schuyler, patriot statesman and military leader, risked his life and livelihood and lost his Saratoga home for his belief in the promise of a new and independent United States of America, affording political and economic liberties for its citizens. After his death, his family continued his policies of promoting canal transportation and fostering commercial enterprise in the community that later became known as Schuylerville in his honor.

The interpretation of history has changed over the last twenty plus years. New scholarship on the history of American women and minorities has been one of the richest and most prolific fields of inquiry in recent decades. Its findings offer the Park an opportunity to develop a sweeping and far more accurate interpretive approach that will both dramatically enrich and enliven the interpretation at the Park. We have the opportunity to use scholarship to bring into focus the dynamic relationships between public and private actions, between the formal realms of government, business, or military and the infrastructures of daily life and the basic social and economic structures that under gird them. In doing so these concepts also clarify the emergence of voluntary associations at the intersections of public and private life that have been critical to the expansion of democracy and the definition of active citizenship.

When this concern has been brought up in the past, you have said that the prior sub theme covers this. I guess my response is that is good, would it hurt to do it twice. This is an opportunity for the Park Service to take actions to show that it embraces this new form of interpretation. Actions speak loudly. I would like to see it added. The reason for my strong feeling on this is the past actions of Park Service Contractors working on the furnishing reports for the Schuyler House. The draft furnishing plan basically said that the second floor of the Schuyler House could be closed because it focused on the family and not the General. We can do better. This is an opportunity.

In addition, during comments on the prior draft, a number of community members made comments on this issue. The Park Mangers said that they would meet with Old Saratoga Historical Association on this issue. That meeting was never called by the Park Service and no effort was made for local input on the revised theme.

There has been an effort to include Schuyler's family after his death and the promotion of the Canal. I think that is wonderful. But I see over the next twenty years the opportunity to also interpret the Schuyler family's early house and plantations. During the attack of 1745, over 100 captives with an estimated 65 slaves were taken to Canada and sold as slaves in Canada. This is a fascinating story that relates to the Schuyler family. It would be nice if over the next twenty years, as the Schuyler Estate is reestablished that this story could be told. But a literal reading of the interpretive themes would consider this beyond that scope.

I strongly suggest that the park revise the theme to include General Schuyler and his family. This would allow future interpreters to focus on the generation before the General (the early plantation) and the generations after the General (early remembrances and the canals).

As a reference, the issues involving the Schuyler Plantation is based on research of Theodore G. Corbett's *A Clash of Cultures on the Warpath of Nations The Colonial Wars in the Hudson-Champlain Valley* (Purple Mountain Press 2002).

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



Sean Kelleher
Historian, Town of Saratoga

- Interpretive themes presented in the draft general management plan provide a framework for more detailed exposition through subsequent planning and application. The themes were the result of a consensus reached at a workshop in March 2000 when some 30 scholars and resource specialists convened to define the most important stories to be told at Saratoga National Historical Park. The interpretation of diverse populations was a major topic at the workshop. The participants specifically developed the first sub-theme under "People: At Saratoga—by Choice or by Chance" (outlined on page 32) to embrace "men and women, soldier and civilian, free and enslaved, and those of many nations." This sub-theme lays the foundation to broaden the park's interpretive focus to embrace diverse populations, including the women and African Americans associated with the Schuyler family.
- The sub-theme you highlight is a broad statement of Schuyler's influence on the conduct of the Revolutionary War that also places him in his historic context. Alternative D calls for an interpreting General Schuyler's civic, military and entrepreneurial roles, as well as the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga.

Mail Back Form

Please let us know what you think of the preferred **Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign**. Share your thoughts by e-mail, or by filling out this card and faxing or mailing it back to us. Please see our contact information below. Thank you for your input!

What do you think are the strength and weaknesses of Preferred Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign?

I am excited that the National Park Service Staff is willing to take on this task. For too many years Victory Woods and the Schuyler Estate Area has been left by the wayside. Hopefully funding will allow some of these areas to be enhanced and will allow visitors to have a better view of the area during that historic time.
Joan Alheim

Please share your comments:

E-mail: sara_info@nps.gov Fax: 518-664-9830 Or simply fill out

L & J ALHEIM

L&J Alheim

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- One of the achievements of this planning process was to heighten the profile of the park's Old Saratoga Unit and improve the visitor experience in Old Saratoga.



Dan Hughes

02/13/2004 10:23 AM
PST

To: sara_info@nps.gov

cc:

Subject: General Management Plan for the
Old Saratoga Region

I endorse the General Management Plan for the Old Saratoga Region. This plan will not only benefit the region, it will benefit the visitors like myself. If history is not respected and preserved for future generations to learn and understand the sacrifices of their ancestors, it will repeat itself, over and over.

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Dan Hughes

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

This is a Comment File Created on 03/05/2003

This Comment was Created on 02/15/2004

Name: Dr. Glenn Haas

Comments: Hello, Thank you for inviting input. I believe one of your most significant issues relates to visitor experiences and visitation. As such, I think you need to define and contrast your alternatives more clearly by stating the visitor capacity you propose for each. The alternatives seem too vague on this matter and it is best to make decisions on this topic early on rather than as a result on unacceptable conflicts and degradation. The visitor capacity could be a specific number or a numeric range (e.g., 20--25 buses at one time) for the number of parties, cars, buses, or school groups, etc. The visitor capacities may also only apply to highly desired or sensitive locations and times of the year. It would not take much to add several lines to the alternatives on this matter, and it would greatly help the public and community understand how the alternatives vary and what their choices are. I hope these thoughts are useful. glenn haas 970-498-9350

Dr. Glenn Haas

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- Exceeding carrying capacity was not identified as a planning issue during the scoping phase of the process. Although visitation to Saratoga National Historical Park has increased over the past twenty years, in line with national trends, it is not expected to rise sharply within the life of the plan. Recreational visits exceeded the 200,000 mark only once in the past 30 years. The park's level of visitation is well within the park's resource protection capabilities. In contrast, some citizens raised concerns over inadequate visitor volumes and encouraged the National Park Service to develop large-scaled visitor facilities to attract more tourists. Our planning indicates that only moderate increases in visitor volume may result from the any of the actions proposed in the alternatives within the life of the plan. It is expected that such increases can be managed by the proposals within the plan to protect resources and visitor experience. As such, rather than identifying specific numbers or numeric ranges for visitor capacities, the team identified types of visitor experiences appropriate for each zone of the park. The team then outlined a process on pages 250–251 to establish standards, monitor, and identify management actions that would maintain desired resource protection and visitor experience conditions.

February 24, 2004

Superintendent
Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170

Dear Superintendent:

I am writing about the Draft General Management Plan for the Saratoga National Historical Park. This is a great plan for Old Saratoga but with all plans there is room for improvement.

There is an ongoing concerns about the changes to the interior of the Schuyler House. There is talk of new interpretive treatment or new interpretative media. I feel strongly that the furnishings need to remain within the Schuyler House. We see places like Fort Craio where the State Park system has taken a historic house and created a museum. It is hard to read and it is not accessible by children. I would like to see this stay as a furnished house.

There is also been concerns raised about interpreting just General Schuyler, and I would like to see that theme changed to include his family the generation before and the generation after. We should tell the story of women and African Americans in our community.

I would also like to see an active campaign to open Victory Woods. The Park has had the land for over 25 years. It is time to open it to the public and working with the local communities this can be done.

Thank you for listening to my concerns,

George DeMere
Old Saratoga Trading Post
Schuylerville

George DeMere

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. As you suggest, Alternative D calls for utilizing “a combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media in Schuyler House that best describes the story of the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga.” The draft plan recommends a change in the furnished interiors because, at present, none of the furnishings in the Schuyler House are original to the house and few are associated with the Schuyler family. In addition, many of the items post-date 1804 and are stylistically incorrect. Fleshing out the details of the interpretive treatment of the Schuyler House is the task of the Long Range Interpretive Plan, which will be conducted with stakeholder input. We welcome your input and encourage you to stay involved in the development of the implementation plans.
- Alternative D calls for interpreting General Schuyler’s civic, military and entrepreneurial roles, as well as the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga. Interpretive themes presented in the draft general management plan provide a framework for more detailed exposition through subsequent planning and application. The themes were the result of a consensus reached at a workshop in March 2000 when some 30 scholars and resource specialists convened to define the most important stories to be told at Saratoga National Historical Park. The interpretation of diverse populations was a major topic at the workshop. The participants specifically developed the first sub-theme under “People: At Saratoga—by Choice or by Chance” (outlined on page 32) to embrace “men and women, soldier and civilian, free and enslaved, and those of many nations.” This sub-theme lays the foundation to broaden the park’s interpretive focus to embrace diverse populations, including the women and African Americans associated with the Schuyler family.
- One of the achievements of this planning process was to confirm the importance of Victory Woods and to lay the foundation for including it in the interpretive program.

Mail Back Form

Please let us know what you think of the preferred **Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign**. Share your thoughts by e-mail, or by filling out this card and faxing or mailing it back to us. Please see our contact information below. Thank you for your input!

What do you think are the strength and weaknesses of Preferred Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign?

Alternative D appears to be a well-considered and reasonable approach. The tour sequence in the progression of the battles, siege, and surrender will enhance public understanding of the history that took place here. Now, when I visit, I don't get that full a picture of it.

I want to highlight also the need to protect grassland habitats for birds and other wildlife. Grasslands - and the species that depend on them, are disappearing in upstate New York. The park currently preserves significant grassland habitat and should continue to do so - as well as manage it for grassland sparrows, upland sandpipers, northern harriers, etc.

Please share your comments:

E-mail: sara_info@nps.gov Fax: 518-664-9830 Or simply fill out this card, stamp, and mail.

Scott Stoner

Scott Stoner

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- For reasons of brevity, the draft plan summary newsletter included highlights of the alternatives, but could not go into depth on all aspects of the draft plan. Conservation of grassland habitat is addressed on pages 51–52 of the plan. The following objective regarding conservation of habitat is common to all alternatives: *Natural resource management actions conserve and enhance the park's grassland habitat to support cultural landscape objectives and opportunistically support critical habitat.* Pages 51–52 outline ways in which park managers will work towards achieving this objective.

02/26/2004 12:07 PM EST

To: sara_info@nps.gov
cc:
Subject: General Management Plan

Dear Superintendent:

My husband, Bill Crawshaw, and I are very interested in developments in the Saratoga National Historical Park. Ever since we have settled near Saratoga Lake we have taken pride in showing visitors the park and going there ourselves to see the movie -- our grown children still laugh at their early impressions of it -- and to walk on the paths and road. Our older daughter, Cricket/Catherine, worked on a grounds maintenance crew headed by Skip Penk around eighteen years ago. Our younger daughter, Abigail, joined her 4-H friends in providing an eighteenth-century living demonstration at the Schuyler House and at the Freeman Farm.

We have heard of the General Management Plan and believe that in general there are good ideas. We especially like ideas for the development of the Victory Woods. We've also heard about plans for the Schuyler House that would remove the antique furnishings from the house. We would strongly urge the furnishings be kept or, if loaned, replaced by appropriate pieces. The Schuyler House is beautiful just the way it is and a walk through sparks the imagination about what life must have been like long ago.

We realize changes sometimes come about gradually, but with popular support you can accomplish much in a short time. We are excited about possibilities. We hope you press ahead to get the maximum effect out of your fresh ideas.

Sincerely,
Helen Crawshaw

Helen Crawshaw

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. As you suggest, Alternative D calls for utilizing "a combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media in Schuyler House that best describes the story of the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga." The draft plan recommends a change in the furnished interiors because, at present, none of the furnishings in the Schuyler House are original to the house and few are associated with the Schuyler family. In addition, many of the items post-date 1804 and are stylistically incorrect. Fleshing out the details of the interpretive treatment of the Schuyler House is the task of the Long Range Interpretive Plan, which will be conducted with stakeholder input. We welcome your input and encourage you to stay involved in the development of the implementation plans.



John L. Buono
Chairman

**New York State Thruway Authority
New York State Canal Corporation**

200 Southern Blvd., P.O. Box 189, Albany, NY 12201-0189
www.thruway.state.ny.us



Michael R. Fleischer
Executive Director
TDD/TTY 1-800-253-6244

February 27, 2004

Mr. Doug Lindsay, Superintendent
Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170-1604

Dear Mr. Lindsay:

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on the draft general Management Plan for the Saratoga National Historical Park.

The Canal Corporation supports the selection of Alternative D as the Preferred Alternative. This alternative is the most comprehensive and will do the most to increase visitation to the park and surrounding area. The addition of a visitor orientation facility in Old Saratoga will be a boost to the Village of Schuylerville, while increasing awareness and understanding of the park and the events that took place there.

The recommendations for developing cycling and walking trails along the Old Champlain Canal, enhancing links with Lock 5 in Schuylerville and the provision of access to the park for pleasure craft at appropriate locations in the park are of particular interest to the Canal Corporation as these are shared objectives.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Draft Management Plan. We look forward to working with the National Park Service in the implementation of these mutually beneficial recommendations described above.

Sincerely,

Robert Bulman
Director of Canals

**Robert Bulman
New York State Canal Corporation**

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

Mail Back Form

Please let us know what you think of the preferred **Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign**. Share your thoughts by e-mail, or by filling out this card and faxing or mailing it back to us. Please see our contact information below. Thank you for your input!

What do you think are the strength and weaknesses of Preferred Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign?

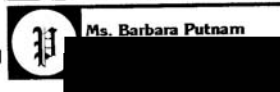
Alt. D plan looks good to me - I especially like the additional pedestrian accesses

I would like to see more small pulloffs (like large enough for 2-3 cars) every 1/4 or 1/2 mile along the tour road or a shoulder wide enough to pull off temporarily to view wildlife

Thanks for asking for comments Barb

Please share your comments:

E-mail: sara_info@nps.gov Fax: 518-664-9830 Or simply fill




Ms. Barbara Putnam

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. Subsequent planning efforts, which will be conducted with stakeholder input, will detail any modifications to the tour route to address vehicular access. We welcome your input and encourage you to stay involved in the development of the implementation plans.


February 27, 2004

Dear Sup Mr. Lindsay,

I am addressing the ongoing concerns about the changes of the interior of the Schuylerhouse. There is talk of new interpretive treatment or new interpretive media. I feel strongly that the furnishings need to remain within the Schuylerhouse. It is hard to read and it is not accessible by children. I would like to see this stay as a furnished house.

I also would like to see an active campaign to open Victory Woods.
Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Patti Nichols

Patti Nichols

Response:

Thank you for your response.

- The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. As you suggest, Alternative D calls for utilizing "a combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media in Schuyler House that best describes the story of the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga." The draft plan recommends a change in the furnished interiors because, at present, none of the furnishings in the Schuyler House are original to the house and few are associated with the Schuyler family. In addition, many of the items post-date 1804 and are stylistically incorrect. Fleshing out the details of the interpretive treatment of the Schuyler House is the task of the Long Range Interpretive Plan, which will be conducted with stakeholder input. We welcome your input and encourage you to stay involved in the development of the implementation plans.
- One of the achievements of this planning process was to confirm the importance of Victory Woods and to lay the foundation for including it in the interpretive program.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

FEB 27 2004

Doug Lindsay, Superintendent
Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, New York 12170-1604

Class: LO

Dear Mr. Lindsay:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the draft General Management Plan (GMP) (CEQ #030580), located in the towns of Stillwater and Saratoga, Saratoga County, in the upper Hudson River Valley, New York. This review was conducted in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7609, PL 91-604 12(a), 84 Stat. 1709), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Saratoga National Historic Park was established in 1938 to preserve and protect sites associated with the battles, siege, and surrender of British forces at Saratoga during the War for Independence. It comprises approximately 2,600 acres consisting of four non-contiguous sites including the Battlefield Unit, the Schuyler Estate, the Saratoga Monument, and Victory Woods and receives over 150,000 visitors per year. The four sites have not been linked. The draft GMP is intended to set forth a basic management philosophy for the park and to provide a framework for future decision making. The document addresses preservation of the Park's cultural and historic resources, visitor carrying capacity, educational programs, and park operations. These concerns were considered during the formulation of alternatives to be included in the draft EIS. We understand that the draft EIS is programmatic in nature, and that additional NEPA documents will be prepared for specific future actions proposed under the preferred alternative.

All four alternatives considered include the following actions, but with differing emphasis: a proposal to modify the tour road to create smaller alternative tour loops, using the existing tour road and service road; creation of special-event parking; proposals to improve the termination of the tour road near its intersection with Route 4 and to improve access to the Taylor House site, the Champlain Canal, and the Hudson River; management of pedestrian, horse, and bicycle traffic to prevent resource damage to historical and designed landscapes; acquisition of all the properties within the legislated boundaries of the Schuyler Estate; and removal of the modern National Park Service residence and shed; NPS would develop portions of the Champlain Canal towpath trail and support development of the towpath trail outside of the park boundary unless it is determined that PCB contamination within the floodplain could have an adverse effect on human health; improved access to a number of archeological sites. The GMP and draft EIS note that development of the Champlain Canal towpath trail and development of trail links to the Hudson River would involve traversing the Hudson River floodplain, and the potential for small releases of PCBs into water or the floodplain. Excavated soils contaminated with high levels of PCBs would be disposed of in registered hazardous waste repositories. However, it is noted that due to the limited volume of materials that could be generated by planned park activities, the treatment and storage of these wastes will have a negligible to minor impact on the environment.

Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov>

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Robert W. Hargrove
United States Environmental Protection Agency

Thank you for your comments.

The draft EIS identifies Alternative D, which focuses on the Burgoyne Campaign, as the environmentally preferred alternative for the project. EPA is pleased with the selection of Alternative D as the preferred alternative because it provides for the greatest protection of cultural and environmental resources, and promotes continued public access to the Park's resources. With this in mind, EPA does not believe that implementation of the GMP would result in significant adverse impacts to environmental or cultural resources and accordingly has no objections at this time to implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Sophia Cliffe of my staff at (212) 637-3755.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert W. Hargrove for".

Robert W. Hargrove, Chief
Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch

Mail Back Form

Please let us know what you think of the preferred **Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign**. Share your thoughts by e-mail, or by filling out this card and faxing or mailing it back to us. Please see our contact information below. Thank you for your input!

What do you think are the strength and weaknesses of Preferred Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign?

I strongly approve of the Preferred Alternative D
focus. Especially favor the expansion in the plan to include
Old Saratoga area (Schuylerville) in the plan. The
projected cost and funding needed is a challenge.
If and when this plan becomes a reality in the
years ahead will be a dream come true for me
since I am the only surviving charter member and
organizer of the Old Saratoga Historical Association.
Cooperative joint efforts among all groups who
work for historical recognition of this area is needed
and appreciated.

Please share your comments:

E-mail: sara_info@nps.gov Fax: 518-664-9830 Or simply fill out this card, stamp, and mail.

Mildred Curtis Drew &
Nelson Drew

Mildred & Nelson Drew

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- One of the achievements of this planning process was to heighten the profile of the park's Old Saratoga Unit and improve the visitor experience in Old Saratoga.
- We appreciate the efforts of the Old Saratoga Historical Association and are looking forward to working with you on the park's Long Range Interpretive Plan.



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February 27, 2004

Julia S. Stokes,
Chair
Joanne Dittes Yepsen,
Vice-Chair
John Colley,
Treasurer
Barbara Glaser,
Secretary
Tim Barnett
Peter Brooks
Jim Bruchac
Jim Fauci
Charlotte Justin
Lisa Nagle
Brad Oswald
Mimi Rayl
James Rossi
Ray Seymour
Martha Strohl
Dan Wojcik

Alane Ball Chinian
Executive Director

Doug Lindsay, Superintendent
Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170-1604

Dear Superintendent Lindsay,

On behalf of the Steering Committee for *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* (formerly Schuyler Park), I would like to commend you for your remarkable vision, leadership, and commitment to community involvement in the development of Saratoga National Historical Park's Draft General Management Plan (GMP). The Plan reflects a thorough, thoughtful, and inclusive effort to chart a course for the Park that will best serve its many visitors and resident communities for generations to come.

As proponents of a 3 ½ mile linear park along the Hudson River in and around the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory, our primary interest in the GMP is in regard to your plans for the "Old Saratoga Unit". We are very pleased to see the park service's recognition of the critical need to improve visitor orientation and interpretation at the Old Saratoga Unit. Our goal, as yours, is to enable the Park to develop the facilities, interpretation, orientation and visitor services that will enable the Park's visitors to understand and appreciate the remarkable story of what happened here in the fall of 1777 that changed the course of history. Furthermore, we also want to work in partnership with the park service and the many other state, local, and private entities interested in creating a seamless experience for visitors who are interested in learning not only about this area's role in the Revolutionary War, but about the entire history of this region from the French and Indian Wars to the development of the Champlain Canal and beyond. Equally important to preserving and interpreting our history is preserving and enhancing the truly extraordinary recreational opportunities we can offer visitors.

Of the four proposed options in the Plan, we strongly prefer Alternative D, with some elements of Alternative C included along with some other suggested changes outlined below. We strongly endorse the objective of Alternative D to "focus on improving visitor understanding of the events that led to the 1777 British surrender in Saratoga by providing a more complete and logical depiction of these events." Furthermore, we are very supportive of the provisions "enabling the park to expand its partnerships with other Burgoyne Campaign-related sites and regional entities in the Champlain-Hudson and Mohawk valleys."

Beth Sciumeca, Program Manager
Old Saratoga on the Hudson, Saratoga P.L.A.N.

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- We appreciate your support for the bulk of the plan and are pleased that *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* and the National Park Service have reached consensus on the general direction for the future of Saratoga National Historical Park. We look forward to working with you to implement the plan. As a general statement, we are in agreement with the majority of the points raised in your letter. Many of these points, however, focus on implementation and are outside the purview of this general level of planning. The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. As you suggest, Alternative D calls for: developing a visitor facility in Old Saratoga; encouraging nonmotorized park touring and expanding the park's trail system; linking the Old Saratoga sites with pedestrian and bicycle routes; working in partnership to protect critical viewsheds; developing an interpretive trail through Victory Woods and rehabilitating its character-defining features; rehabilitating the Schuyler Estate to tell the story of the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga; and developing a satellite maintenance facility in Old Saratoga. Subsequent planning efforts, including a Long Range Interpretive Plan and a Development Concept Plan will be conducted with stakeholder input and will flesh out these objectives in greater detail. We welcome your input on these planning efforts, and encourage you to stay involved in the development of the implementation plans.

The GMP includes many excellent provisions that we strongly support – too many for us to name individually. In an effort to provide constructive feedback, we have outlined below some of the most significant issues for *Old Saratoga on the Hudson*. For each area, we attempt to provide specific suggestions for changes to the GMP.

Regional Visitor Facility in Old Saratoga

The *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* Steering Committee would like to see the General Management Plan go further toward efforts to site, design, and construct a Visitor Facility in the Old Saratoga Unit. Specifically, the park service should allocate funding for siting, designing, and constructing this facility as soon as possible. The GMP documents the need for this facility, but it does not include a commitment to fund its development. Not only is a visitor facility necessary to orient visitors to Saratoga National Historical Park, it will serve as a catalyst for the economic revitalization of the region. The visitor facility could be expected to attract many more visitors to the Old Saratoga area, increasing visitor spending in the region dramatically. If the function of the facility is to serve as a regional visitor center, it could have an even greater economic impact.

We strongly encourage the park service to explore the feasibility of joining state, local, and other partners in establishing this facility as described in Alternative C. We envision this facility would serve as a regional visitor facility that not only orients visitors to the Saratoga National Historical Park, but also provides information on the Champlain Canal and transportation system, Lakes to Locks Passage, *Old Saratoga on the Hudson*, and many other regional tourist attractions. As the General Management Plan describes, there are numerous plans, programs, and opportunities to provide visitors with a greater understanding and appreciation of the significance of the Burgoyne Campaign within the broader context of other historical events. The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor, and Lakes to Locks Passage are just a few of the federal and state initiatives that we have an opportunity to leverage. It would be a shame to miss this opportunity to provide an overall appreciation and understanding of these programs and stories.

In order to accommodate these other programs, the proposed facility needs to be larger than the modest facility suggested in Alternative D. We would like to see the plan include a 10,000 square foot facility as described in Alternative C. Furthermore, we would like to see the visitor facility defined broadly to allow for the possibility of educational opportunities through classrooms, office space, auditoriums, hands-on demonstrations, museum quality displays and exhibits, and theatres. If this facility is to be a joint effort designed and built with other partners, it is important not to limit the scope of the building's functions until the project partners and the public have had an opportunity to provide input on the needs for this type of facility.

Recreational Enjoyment of the Old Saratoga Unit

The National Park Service Sites in the Old Saratoga Unit are critical recreational as well as historical resources within *Old Saratoga on the Hudson*. We hope to create a destination that will attract many kinds of visitors with varied interests. Many of these

- As you suggest, the draft plan does not include a commitment to fund the Old Saratoga visitor facility in the near term. This is because the National Park Service develops five-year deferred maintenance and capital improvement plans. Because emphasis in the budget process is currently being placed on addressing needs to maintain existing infrastructure, funding for new development is not likely within the next five years. The potential for implementing this proposal in the near term would be improved if other sources of funding, such as through partnerships or through non-National Park Service sources, become available.
- Alternative D proposes a facility that the National Park Service believes is appropriately scaled for park uses and for the visitation levels in Old Saratoga. Alternative D states that this facility “would be sited and designed to allow for expansion as new opportunities and partnerships evolve.”

visitors we expect to be interested in the recreational opportunities our area can provide. For this reason, we are striving to develop and enhance the various sites within *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* with an eye toward its recreational use. We use the following three techniques to help us in this effort: 1) planning and designing individual sites for recreational enjoyment 2) linking the various sites with a system of bicycle and pedestrian trails and 3) preserving the scenic vistas and viewsheds within the Old Saratoga region.

We encourage the park service to place a high value on the recreational enjoyment of its sites by utilizing these techniques as well. Planning and designing for recreational use can be accomplished by incorporating picnic areas and amenities, safe open grassy areas sheltered from roads and traffic, and child-friendly landscapes and interpretive displays into the design plans for each of the sites in the Old Saratoga Unit.

To encourage the recreational value of *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* and the national park service sites, we would like to see the park service do as much as they can to develop and enhance off-road access to and enjoyment of their sites. For example, we would like to see pedestrian access incorporated into the renovation plans for Saratoga Monument. Specifically, we would like to see sidewalks or walking trails incorporated in the design plans. We would also like to see the park service make a commitment to doing everything possible to connect their three sites to each other and to the neighboring communities through walkways and trails.

We at *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* are working hard to coordinate with the various municipalities and private landowners in these communities to develop a system of sidewalks and trails to enable pedestrians, bicyclists, hikers, and cross-country skiers to make their way around the park. The Old Champlain Canalway Trail provides a wonderful opportunity to connect our park and our community to a larger trail system. The designation of the Old Champlain Canal as a national historic site and the creation of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor attest to the importance of preserving, restoring, and interpreting this remarkable feature. We are fortunate to have a very well preserved section of the historic Old Champlain Canal and towpath that runs from the Schuyler House all the way to the Lock #5 Island. This bike and pedestrian pathway is a link between the historic sites related to the siege of 1777 and the structures and waterways of the original Champlain Canal and recreation sites along the west bank of the Hudson River. Enhancing this trail by upgrading the surface, adding benches and interpretive signage and other improvements is a high priority for *Old Saratoga on the Hudson*. We encourage the park service to make improvements and access to the Champlain Canal and towpath a priority in their plans as well.

We also would like to eventually see Victory Woods connected to Saratoga Monument and Fish Creek by trail. It is understood that the park service needs to provide vehicular access to its sites, but this does not preclude providing additional pedestrian-only access. This simply allows for further appreciation of these magnificent sites by different types of visitors. To facilitate this type of access, the park service would need to work in

- Alternative D calls for linking the park sites both interpretively and physically with one another and with thematically related sites outside the park boundary, as well as, encouraging nonmotorized park touring.
- The draft plan, in the “Objectives Common to All Alternatives” section, proposes to develop a towpath trail on segments of the historic Champlain Canal that run through the park, as well as, to support efforts of others to develop the portions of the towpath trail that are outside the park boundary.
- Alternative D calls for working with partners to connect Victory Woods with the Saratoga Monument via a trail through Prospect Hill Cemetery and with the Schuyler Estate via a trail along Fish Creek.

cooperation with neighboring landowners. The *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* Steering Committee will be very happy to provide as much help as possible in this regard.

Finally, as mentioned previously, it is essential that we preserve the scenic vistas and natural settings that make the region such an attractive and inviting destination for all visitors. The Saratoga Monument and Schuyler House can only be fully appreciated by the visitor if the surrounding landscapes are conducive to thoughtful contemplation and reflection. We are working with neighboring landowners to preserve the agricultural lands that currently provide for magnificent views of Saratoga Monument as one approaches from the East. We strongly urge the park service to work closely with us and with other partners to protect the viewsheds from each of the park service sites in the Old Saratoga Unit.

Victory Woods

With this 20-year General Management Plan, the park service has the opportunity to put in place the necessary plans to finally develop Victory Woods into the outstanding historical and recreational resource it ought to be. This site is the missing link that connects two Villages and all three national park service sites in the Old Saratoga Unit. As noted in the previous section, we would like to see an emphasis placed on pedestrian access to and around the Victory Woods site. We are working with other project partners to develop a hiking trail along Fish Creek from the Schuyler House to Victory Mills. We would like to see the GMP include plans for how to connect Victory Woods by trail to Victory Mills/Fish Creek and to Saratoga Monument. Development of a small parking area specifically designed to accommodate pedestrian access to Victory Woods would also be helpful.

We would also like to see the historical significance of Victory Woods come alive for visitors through the development of interpretive media. The current management plan is vague on plans for interpreting this important site and we would like to see more specific plans for how the park service will develop and interpret Victory Woods.

Expanded Season and Visitation for Old Saratoga Unit Sites

If the park is committed to providing greater access and orientation for visitors at the Old Saratoga Unit, it is critical that the operational season and visitor access be expanded to accommodate current and future visitors. There is already a demand among current visitors to the Saratoga Monument and Schuyler House for additional hours and a longer season. During the summer months, visitor access on Tuesdays is particularly critical for drawing in Saratoga Springs tourists in town for the racetrack. The Old Saratoga area also has many visitors (local and out-of-town) in September and October to enjoy the fall foliage. Today's tourists are largely represented by retirement age visitors not constrained to weekend or summer-only travel. We propose that at a minimum, the hours of operation for the Old Saratoga Unit sites (including a future visitor facility) be expanded to seven days per week during the summer and fall seasons and to include weekend hours year-round.

- The draft plan, in the "Objectives Common to All Alternatives" section, calls for park managers and partners to work together to protect agricultural lands and park viewsheds.
- It is the task of the Long-Range Interpretive Plan to flesh out the details regarding interpretation of Victory Woods. We encourage you to stay involved with the development of the implementation plans.
- The length of season and days of operation per week of park facilities are subject to the availability of funding for staff salaries and supporting expenses. A general management plan cannot predict or provide increased level of funding for such additional services. The park will always evaluate the desirability of increased visitor services when formulating budget needs.

Placing the Old Saratoga Unit sites into a broader historical context

The area that surrounds the Schuyler House, Victory Woods and Saratoga Monument is one of the most beautiful and historically important landscapes in the region. As you know, within this area lay the Field of Grounded Arms where the British Army surrendered their weapons to American forces in the fall of 1777. But the area is also rich in non-Revolutionary War history - from the War of Austrian Succession and the key role the Schuyler family played in the development of the Champlain Canal, to the development of industrial mills along Fish Creek. Historic buildings, sweeping mountain views, an industrial-era textile mill and classic "mill housing", the Old Champlain Canal and towpath, historic Fish Creek, and the mighty Hudson River are just some of the extraordinary features of the region that surround the Old Saratoga Unit. Our objective is to weave together the stories and the settings that make up *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* so that visitors can appreciate the area's significant role in history while enjoying its many recreational opportunities. We would like to work in partnership with the park service to create a seamless experience for visitors interested in learning not only about the area's role in the Revolutionary War, but about the region's significant contributions to other periods in our history.

The opportunity for this type of coordination is most notable with the Schuyler Estate. The Schuyler family played a key role in much of the area's history. The history and stories of the Schuyler family are varied and rich in detail and historical context. The Schuyler family played a role in the various French and Indian Wars from 1690 through the Seven Years War, the Revolutionary War, the development of the Canal system in New York State, and the preindustrial age. The stories of the Schuyler family provide a connecting link to the geographic features of the Old Saratoga area as well - linking the Schuyler House to the Champlain Canal, Hudson River, Field of Grounded Arms, and Fish Creek up into the Village of Victory.

We would like to see these stories interpreted for visitors to the extent possible at the Schuyler Estate and in the regional visitor facility. As with the regional visitor facility, it would be a shame to miss this opportunity to convey to visitors the important role of the Schuyler family over a fifty year period in our history. Understanding that the park service priority must be to interpret the Schuyler family's role in the Revolutionary War, we encourage the park service to work closely with the Old Saratoga Historical Association and others to interpret the other significant stories for visitors to the Schuyler Estate.

Support for Maintenance Facility for Old Saratoga Unit

We fully support the park service's plans to construct a maintenance facility to serve the Old Saratoga Unit. We would like to strongly encourage the park service to work closely with Old Saratoga on the Hudson and other interested partners to identify a suitable location that minimizes the visual impact on the community. We encourage the park service to explore opportunities to develop and operate the maintenance area jointly with other partners.

- Alternative D calls for an interpreting General Schuyler's civic, military and entrepreneurial roles, as well as the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga.
- The draft general management plan does not specify the location of the maintenance facility. The siting of that facility will be determined through subsequent planning, which will include public input, and which will consider historic landscape values and viewshed protection in the deliberations. We welcome your input and encourage you to stay involved with the development of the implementation plans.

Conclusion

We at *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* are very pleased with Saratoga National Historical Park's Draft General Management Plan. The plan is a comprehensive testament to your commitment to preserving and interpreting the sacred lands, historic buildings, and commemorative monuments that comprise Saratoga National Historical Park. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide you with our suggestions and input on this critically important document. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you to preserve, protect, and interpret the extraordinary places and stories that reside in Old Saratoga.

Sincerely,



Beth Sciumeca, Program Manager
Old Saratoga on the Hudson
Saratoga P.L.A.N.

Cc: Tom Wood, Supervisor, Town of Saratoga
George Sullivan, Mayor, Village of Victory
John Sherman, Mayor, Village of Schuylerville
Janet Kennedy, Executive Director, Lakes to Locks Passage
Deborah Peck Kelleher, Old Saratoga Historical Association
Julie Stokes, Chair, Saratoga P.L.A.N.
Corinne Ward, Schuylerville Area Chamber of Commerce
Jennifer Joseph, Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce

Nick Nichols

February 28, 2004

Dear Mr. Lindsey,

I am writing about my concerns regarding the changes to the interior of the Schuyler House. There are indications of new interpretive treatment or new interpretive media. My feelings are that it is most important that the furnishings need to remain intact within the Schuyler House.

I would not want to see the Schuyler House become a museum. That would greatly diminish its historical significance.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,
Nick Nichols

Nick Nichols

Response:

Thank your for your comments.

- The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. As you suggest, Alternative D calls for utilizing “a combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media in Schuyler House that best describes the story of the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga.” The draft plan recommends a change in the furnished interiors because, at present, none of the furnishings in the Schuyler House are original to the house and few are associated with the Schuyler family. In addition, many of the items post-date 1804 and are stylistically incorrect. Fleshing out the details of the interpretive treatment of the Schuyler House is the task of the Long Range Interpretive Plan, which will be conducted with stakeholder input. We welcome your input and encourage you to stay involved in the development of the implementation plans.

This Comment was Created on 02/28/2004

Name: William M. Herrlich



Comments: The Management Planning cycle has proceeded over enough time to allow sufficient and useful commentary and deliberation from and by the public and the Park Service. The draft plan reflects this, and its presentation of a realistic range of outcomes provides perspective helpful in evaluating Alternative D. The alternative, as presented, appears more inclusive than A-C and incorporates elements that I think are most important. From the start, problems with signage and like interpretive material (especially the tour sequence) were foremost in comments I heard, and with which, from my experience, I agree. The emphasis on Victory Woods is a real plus, if only because it has received almost none to this point despite being of legitimate interest. Further integration of the Battlefield and Old Saratoga units can only be positive. Finally, I think any effort to recognize the historic values within the region, both narrowly and broadly, is valuable. The mid-point of the one-time cost estimate range is less than that of Alternative C and only 10% higher than the like number for the less complete Alternative B, and the increase in operating costs relative to those same alternatives is the same or less. These cost figures seem reasonable given the scale of the project. William M. Herrlich

William M. Herrlich

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

Mail Back Form

Please let us know what you think of the preferred **Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign**. Share your thoughts by e-mail, or by filling out this card and faxing or mailing it back to us. Please see our contact information below. Thank you for your input!

What do you think are the strength and weaknesses of Preferred Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign?

*Linking the Victory Woods to the Saratoga Monument sounds good but not thru the Prospect Cemetery, grave stones might get knocked over.
Removing the National Park Service residence and shed at the Schuyler site sounds good also, Does not fit in with the landscape.
Linking sites, Key Words!
I give Alternative D an A
Thanks for reading,*

Please share your comments:

E-mail: sara_info@nps.gov Fax: 518-664-9830 Or simply fill out this card

Richard Crammond

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. Subsequent planning efforts, which are to be conducted with stakeholder input, will detail how and where linkages will be made among the Old Saratoga sites and will consider the concern you raise about protecting the gravestones in the Prospect Hill Cemetery. We welcome your input and encourage you to stay involved in the development of the implementation plans.



OLD SARATOGA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
OF SCHUYLERVILLE, NEW YORK INC.
DEBORAH PECK KELLEHER - PRESIDENT
501 ROUTE 32 S • SCHUYLERVILLE, NY 12871
PHONE / FAX (518) 583-0506

February 29, 2004

Doug Lindsey, Superintendent
Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170

Dear Superintendent Lindsey:

The Old Saratoga Historical Association is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the Draft General Management Plan for the Saratoga National Historical Park. The Association is delighted to see that the Plan contains a number of provisions that will only improve the interpretation of the sites in Old Saratoga.

The Association is not commenting on the other alternatives proposed since Alternative D has already been selected. The lack of public input into the process has kept all the alternatives out of public view until Alternative D was selected. It would be disingenuous to state (p.78) that Alternative D was arrived at by public input since numerous requests for a copy of all the alternatives or Alternative D were denied by the Park until the Draft GMP was released.

Interpretive Themes

The Association is pleased to see that General Schuyler is specifically recognized under the People at Saratoga sub-theme. We had asked that the sub-theme be revised to include Schuyler's family, servants and slaves. Although the Superintendent stated that the theme would be edited to include them, the theme was only expanded to cover Schuyler's important work initiating the NYS canal system.

The Association raised this issue with the Superintendent and regional NPS staff at the Open House for the Draft GMP on January 22, 2004. The Association was told that the second paragraph under sub-theme of People, which begins with "Participants on both sides" was broad enough to include the Schuyler family, servants, and slaves. The Association would like to see the General Schuyler theme expanded to include his family and dependents.

The General Schuyler theme mentions the loss "of his Saratoga home." The Association feels that this should be modified to include the numerous outbuildings and mills of his Estate that were lost to fire set by the British. This expansion would allow for further interpretation of this property as a working estate with extensive business

**Debbie Peck Kelleher, President
Old Saratoga Historical Association**

Response:

Thank you for your comments.

- We appreciate your support for the bulk of the plan and are pleased that the Old Saratoga Historical Association and the National Park Service have reached consensus on the general direction for the future of Saratoga National Historical Park. We look forward to working with you to implement the plan. We are in agreement with the majority of the points raised in your letter; however, many of those points are outside the purview of this general level of planning. The general management plan provides a foundation to guide and coordinate all subsequent planning and is not intended to be specific or detailed. As you suggest, Alternative D calls for: upgrading exhibits in the visitor center; developing a visitor orientation facility in Old Saratoga; collecting fees at the Old Saratoga Unit; rehabilitating the Saratoga Monument grounds to reflect their original design; and interpreting the battles, siege, and surrender in the broader context of the Burgoyne Campaign. Subsequent planning efforts, including the Long Range Interpretive Plan and a Development Concept Plan will flesh out these objectives in greater detail. We welcome your input and encourage you to stay involved in the development of the implementation plans.
- Alternative D is a composite of Alternatives A, B, and C. It was formulated based upon public input received on those alternatives via newsletter #2 (fall, 2001), which was distributed to 1000 individuals and posted on the park's website. In addition, input on Alternatives A, B, and C was gleaned from meetings with local officials in July 2001, with representatives from the Old Saratoga Historical Association and the Schuyler Mansion on October 2001, and with potential regional center partners in April 2002. The National Environmental Policy Act stipulates that, if the responsible agency has a preference for an alternative, it must be so identified in the draft environmental impact statement. Alternative D is the National Park Service's preferred alternative and thus it is explicitly identified in the draft plan.
- Interpretive themes presented in the draft general management plan provide a framework for more detailed exposition through subsequent planning and application. The themes were the result of a consensus reached at a workshop in March 2000 when some 30 scholars and resource specialists convened to define the most important stories to be told at Saratoga National Historical Park. The interpretation of diverse populations was a major topic at the workshop. The participants specifically developed the first sub-theme under "People: At Saratoga—by Choice or by Chance" (outlined on page 32) to embrace "men and women, soldier and civilian, free and enslaved, and those of many nations." This sub-theme lays the foundation to broaden the park's interpretive focus to embrace diverse populations, including the women and African Americans associated with the Schuyler family.
- The themes lay the foundation to describe, in greater detail, the extent of the Schuyler family's loss.

operations. The mention of just his home fails to bring across the extent of his loss during the War.

Cooperative Efforts and Partnerships (p. ii, 31, 83, 154)

There are numerous references throughout the Management Plan to the establishment of partnerships to further the Parks mission. The Association has had a formal relationship with the Park for over 40 years. The GMP should recognize this ongoing relationship and the support given to the Park from the Association in the furnishing of the Schuyler House. All references to "establishing partnerships" should be amended to read "maintaining existing and establishing new partnerships..."

The Association feels slighted that in the Partnership section we are not mentioned under the action "continue to work with volunteers, reenactor groups, the Friends of the Saratoga Battlefield, and others to improve living history and educational programs." The only education programs that are currently conducted the Schuyler House are those the Association coordinates. The Association has enjoyed its partnership with the Park in regards to 18th Century Day, the Candlelight Tour and the Youth Program. The Association would like to see our name mentioned under the list of organizations to continue to work with on these programs.

The Association believes that the sentence "Continue to work with the Old Saratoga Historical Association to upgrade interpretation at the Schuyler Estate" implies that the Association has been recalcitrant in regards to the updating of the interpretation. The Association has asked the Park for a number of years for a list of furnishings or small household items that could be added to the House. The Park has only recently discussed purchasing some china for the dining room. The Association would like to see this sentence reworded to reflect the partnership we share in the appropriate interpretation of the Schuyler Estate.

New Maintenance Facility at Old Saratoga

It does appear from the Draft GMP that the only place to put a new maintenance facility in Old Saratoga, if it is to go within the Park legislative boundaries, is on the Schuyler Estate (p.48). Every effort should be made to ensure that the new facility does not intrude on the viewshed of the Schuyler house. Except for the current Park housing in view of the Schuyler House, the House is blessed with a wonderful wooded viewshed.

Park House at Schuyler Estate

The Association is pleased that the Park is planning to remove the current Park housing on the Schuyler Estate. Until the House is removed, the Association suggests that a hedge or shrubbery barrier be placed around the house to limit its view from the Schuyler House.

- See references to the Old Saratoga Historical Association's support of the park on page 121, third paragraph and page 128, second paragraph. Alternative D calls for enhancing partnerships (including existing partnerships) to place the park in its broader historic context and to strengthen the park's role in regional initiatives.
- As you suggest, the Old Saratoga Historical Association has been added to the list via errata.
- Recalcitrance on behalf of the Old Saratoga Historical Association is neither implied nor intended. The statement in the plan represents a commitment on behalf of park managers to continue to work with the Old Saratoga Historical Association on the Long Range Interpretive Plan, the cultural landscape treatment plan, and other efforts to advance proposals regarding the Schuyler Estate.
- The siting of the maintenance facility will be determined through subsequent planning, which will consider historic landscape values and viewshed protection in the deliberations.

Expansion of the Schuyler Estate

The Association is pleased that the Park is taking steps to expand the Schuyler Estate to its legislative boundaries. These actions will only enhance the viewshed of the property and improve the interpretative options there. The concept of an open view down to the Hudson River will bring the House back to how it looked in General Schuyler's day.

Orientation

The discussion of Alternative D on p.78 states that it will "provide primary park-wide visitor orientation at both the Battlefield unit and the Old Saratoga Unit." The Association welcomes this action. The current Visitors Center (VC) lacks any discussion or orientation to the Old Saratoga properties. Any future expansion or changes in the interpretive media at the VC should include the Schuyler House, Saratoga Monument, and the siege field at Schuylerville.

It was just such orientation that the Association asked for in the summer of 2003 when the Park was developing the interpretative plan for the new exhibits at the VC. We were informed that the Park did not have the resources to include Old Saratoga in the maps that were being created. Hopefully, any future redesign of the VC will recognize the importance of the siege field and the field of grounded arms in Schuylerville to the entire story of the Battles of Saratoga.

Visitor Orientation at Old Saratoga (p.79)

The Association is pleased that the Park has recognized the need to have a visitor contact station in Schuylerville. The inclusion of meeting room space, a gallery, and classroom will be a wonderful addition to our community and offer wonderful opportunities to share our history with visitors.

The Association would like to see the facility include exhibit space to cover the siege field and history related to General Schuyler. This facility offers a chance to focus on the week long siege of Burgoyne, the counter attacks, and the negotiations of the first surrender of a British Army in over 200 years.

In addition, the Park has raised the possibility of installing museum exhibits in the Schuyler House to relate the story of General Schuyler. These exhibits would be more appropriate in a formal museum setting, such as this facility. The Impact section of Alternative D mentions that universal access concerns with the Schuyler House could be addressed by the new Visitor Facility. This also lends preference to locating exhibits on General Schuyler within this new Facility.

The Association would urge the Park to locate the facility out of the viewshed of the Schuyler House. As we have mentioned above, currently we are blessed with a wonderfully wooded view from most of the Schuyler House Property. Although having such a facility close to the House would be tempting, the destruction of the view would outweigh any benefits.

Schuyler House (p.79, 82)

The sentence on the Schuyler House reads "A combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media would be installed in the house that best portrays the story of the Schuyler family in Old Saratoga." The Association was informed that the term "interpretive media" includes staffing/tours, exhibits, and brochures. If this is the case, then the verb "installed" is not appropriate because it refers only to those media that are physical exhibits in nature. The Association suggests that the word installed be changed to utilized. This word does not assume that the media has already has been chosen to be an installed exhibit.

Park Support Zone (p.82)

The Draft GMP suggests collecting fees at the Old Saratoga Facility. The Association would like to ensure that the level of fee is not unnecessarily high, and that its collection does not hinder visitation to sites at the Old Saratoga Unit. Our concerns are that visitors may be turned away from the Monument or the Schuyler House because they have not paid the fee and are then sent to the new visitor facility to pay the fee. In a situation such as this, the fee becomes an annoyance to the visitor and may result in some not returning to the Monument or the Schuyler House.

Visitor Use and Experience

The Association would like to see the Park expand the season that the sites at the Old Saratoga Unit are open to the public. Currently, they are only open from mid-June through the end of August. The Schuylerville area sees significant traffic and tourism during the fall months. It would be wonderful if our visitors could tour the House and Monument in the fall. The view from the top of the Monument while the leaves are changing colors is spectacular.

In addition, the community would love to have the Schuyler House open to area schools to tour in the Spring. There is an entire generation of Schuylerville school children who have not toured the House. In the past, the Schuyler House was part of the fourth grade curriculum on local history. The Park should modify the Visitor Use and Experience section to include tours of the Schuyler House for the Schuylerville and Stillwater School Districts. It is a shame that area residents are unable to access a local resource because of low staffing at the Park during the month of May.

Educational and Interpretive Opportunities (p.175)

The Association supports the expanded interpretation of General Schuyler with his multidimensional roles. This interpretation allows for greater freedom in interpretation at the Schuyler House and will result in visitors having a better understanding of Schuyler's influence on the Country and our region. Again, as with the themes, the Association would like to see these interpretations also include the General's family and dependents.

- As you suggest, the word "utilized" has replaced "installed" via errata.

- The length of season and days of operation per week of park facilities are subject to the availability of funding for staff salaries and supporting expenses. A general management plan cannot predict or provide increased level of funding for such additional services. The park will always evaluate the desirability of increased visitor services when formulating budget needs.

The Association is also pleased that the Park is planning to increase the number of ranger led tours in the Old Saratoga Unit (p.176). This is a goal that the Association has been working toward.

Visitation (p.177)

The Plan speaks of "reopening the Schuyler Estate with a new interpretive treatment". It is unclear what reopening means, the grounds of the Schuyler House are currently open to the public dawn to dusk, even on days when the House is closed for tours. The Association is very pleased that the Park will be creating interpretative media and a trail system for touring the grounds.

Proposals Considered and Rejected (p.84)

The Association is pleased that both proposals, to restore the Schuyler House to its 1777 appearance and the use of the House as a visitor contact station, were rejected. The Association concurs with the reasoning stated in the Draft GMP.

Affected Environment

The Visitor Experience Section lists the current status of visitor facilities throughout the Park. The section on the Schuyler House (p.121) not only lists the status of the Estate but also includes numerous problems with the site and its interpretative media. This negative tone is not noted for any of the other sites that are listed in this Section. The words no or not are used six times in this paragraph.

It is unclear why only the Schuyler Estate lists not only the status of the site but also the Park's concerns with the site. We are aware that the Park has concerns with their other sites, but these concerns were included only in this section. The Association would like this section to reflect the same summarization that the other sites are given by removing the concerns about the site and the negative tone of the language used.

Park Operations and Facilities

The Association is mentioned on p.128 as one of the Park's principal partners. We would agree that we are a principal partner with the Park in furnishing the Schuyler House and conducting programs at the Schuyler House. The Association disagrees with the statement "the Old Saratoga Historical Association has provided support to the park's programming at the Old Saratoga Unit...". Currently, the only programs that are at the Schuyler House are 18th Century Day and the Candlelight Tour, both of which are coordinated and funded by the Association. The Association would like to see this sentence reworded to read: "The Old Saratoga Historical Association has provided significant programming at the Old Saratoga Unit".

- "Re-opening" refers to activities, such as a public event or media campaign, intended to draw public attention to a new offering, such as a new interpretive treatment of the Schuyler Estate.

- The "Visitor Experience" section of the document outlines the current existing conditions, including those portions of the visitor experience that require improvement. The Schuyler Estate is not singled out in this regard. The visitor experience problems with the visitor center, including the former "woefully inadequate film" and the battlefield tour road are also described here. Victory Woods and the Saratoga Monument are not discussed at length in this section, because, when this section was written, there basically was no visitor experience at those sites.

Cultural Resources

Collections and Archives (p.161)

This impact statement on page 196 reads "install new interpretative media in the Schuyler House." Again, the Association asks that the verb install be changed to "utilize". The word install implies that the interpretative media has already been selected and that it is physical exhibits.

The Association concurs with the language on updating the research to increase the accuracy of the Schuyler House furnishings and updating their appearance to reflect more recent research on furnishings. The Association is aware that our understanding and knowledge of the late 18th century has increased dramatically over the past forty years.

Historic Buildings and Structures (p.171)

The impact statement mentions that "modifying the exhibits in the Schuyler House could result in a short-term increase in visitation to that structure." It is unclear what the term "exhibit" refers to since the action under visitor use and experience uses the terms "historic furnishing and other interpretive media". Again, the Association feels that the term "exhibit" assumes that a decision has already been made as any modification necessary in the Schuyler House. These decisions should be made through the Long Range Interpretative Plan process. The Association is asking that the word "exhibit" be changed to "interpretive media".

Park Operations

Fee Collection (p.179)

Alternative D considers the collection of fees at the Old Saratoga unit. Although the Association is aware that this has become a fiscal necessity, the Association asks that since it was stated by Park staff that fee collection at the Schuyler House is impractical, that any fee collection system consider the ease of collection to the visitor. The Association is concerned that visitors who make their first stop the Schuyler House will be turned away from a tour and sent to the fee collection site. This may result in some visitors not returning for a house tour.

Archaeological Sites and Resources

On page 29, the second paragraph contains no mention of the original Schuyler Mansion being on the Schuyler Estate, or more likely, the property of the Canal Corporation or the NYS Department of Transportation. This research should be included in the Plan.

Canal Trail

The Association is encouraged by the proposed canal trail. Currently, the village of Schuylerville has a developed a wonderful canal trail from Lock 5 to the Schuyler House. The area would only benefit from an extension of this trail to the south.

Victory Woods

The Association is pleased to see the Plan address the property within the village of Victory Mills. The development of trails and interpretation of this site is welcomed by the community. It is unfortunate that the plans for the Victory Woods do not dream as big as other sites. The walking trails for the site should go beyond a simple brochure and include other interpretative media, such as wayside exhibits and periodic ranger tours. The Association is also pleased to see this last remaining piece of the British siege field connected to the Schuyler House with a new trail system in the Villages.

Monument Grounds

The Association is heartened to see that the Plan recommends the restoration of the Monument Grounds to their original landscaping. Over the years, the simple layout of the plantings has been lost, with an even greater loss to the overall impression of the Monument.

Siege Field

The Association is encouraged that the Plan contains so many provisions that would increase the interpretation of the Siege Field area found in the Towns of Saratoga and Northumberland. This has been a forgotten piece of the Battles, and in a way, it was the most important part.

In summary, the Old Saratoga Historical Association is delighted to see that the Plan contains a number of provisions that will improve the interpretation of the sites in Old Saratoga. We look forward to bringing this plan to fruition.

Sincerely,



Debbie Peck Kelleher
President
Old Saratoga Historical Association

Mail Back Form

REQUEST COPY FULL-TEXT
DRAFT PLAN

Please let us know what you think of the preferred ~~Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign~~. Share your thoughts by e-mail, or by filling out this card and faxing or mailing it back to us. Please see our contact information below. Thank you for your input!

What do you think are the strength and weaknesses of Preferred Alternative D: Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign?

I like it. It brings the Park's potential, and the opportunity for the public to understand Saratoga Battlefield area's significance, to an appropriate level. Cooperation with and linkage to off-Park sites of significance is important.

Please share your comments:

E-mail: sara_info@nps.gov Fax: 518-664-9830 Or simply fill out this card, stamp, and mail.

C.R. Fosdick

Response:

Thank you for your comments.



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

March 3, 2004

Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170-1604
ATTN: Douglas Lindsay, Superintendent

re: Comments, draft gen. mgmt. plan
Saratoga NHP
Stillwater, Saratoga (t), Saratoga Co.

Dear Mr. Lindsay:

Thank you for providing the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) a copy of the Draft General Management Plan/EIS for Saratoga National Historical Park, Stillwater and Saratoga. Based upon our staff review of the information provided, the SHPO offers the following comments:

The Draft General Management Plan/EIS provides a comprehensive overview of the historical themes represented by the Saratoga National Historical Park and clearly articulates the numerous interpretive and management issues associated with this complex park facility. The plan proposes a range of alternatives for addressing these issues based upon a broad range of determining factors both internal and external to management of the facility.

As a general comment, the SHPO feels that the draft plan makes a convincing case for the selection of planning Alternative D as the approach preferred by the National Park Service that best addresses the issues identified in the plan. We particularly note the emphases placed upon greater coordination of Saratoga NHP programs into regional heritage tourism efforts and improved interpretation at the Schuylerville components of the park.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft plan. We wish you success as you proceed to implement the plan for Saratoga National Historical Park.

Sincerely,

Raymond W. Smith
Program Analyst, Field Services Bureau

cc/Marjorie Smith, NPS

**Raymond Smith, Program Analyst, Field Services Bureau
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
(New York State Historic Preservation Office)**

Response:

Thank you for your comments.



STATE OF VERMONT

AGENCY OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Chimney Point, Hubbardton Battlefield, and Mount Independence State Historic Sites
c/o Chimney Point State Historic Site
7305 VT Route 125
Addison, Vermont 05491
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March 3, 2004

Doug Lindsay, Superintendent
Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
Stillwater, NY 12170-1604

RE: Draft General Management Plan, Saratoga National Historical Park

Dear Mr. Lindsay:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft general management plan for the Saratoga National Historical Park. I apologize for having just missed your deadline, but hope you still will be able to accept this letter.

This plan is very thoughtful and carefully spells out the feasible alternatives and impacts for managing this highly significant resource. The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation agrees with your conclusion that alternative D with the focus on the Burgoyne Campaign is preferable.

As became clear during our shared 225th anniversary year in 2002 and through recent books such as Richard Ketchum's *Saratoga*, this region and all its Revolutionary War period sites have a large and powerful story to tell about the northern campaign. After the commemorations of 2002, more and more people were aware of the terms "northern campaign" and "Burgoyne campaign" and realized something important happened here. Telling the story of each contributing site within the greater context not only makes stronger the individual sites but also the larger whole.

Good luck in the implementation of your plan and we look forward to continue working with the Historical Park.

Sincerely,

Elsa Gilbertson
Regional Historic Site Administrator

President Chester A. Arthur State Historic Site * Bennington Battle Monument * Chimney Point State Historic Site * President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site *
Old Constitution House State Historic Site * Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site * Senator Justin S. Morrill State Historic Site * Mount Independence State
Historic Site * Ethan Allen Monument * William Czar Bradley Law Office * Eureka Schoolhouse * Hyde Log Cabin * Forisdale Iron Works * Fisher Covered
Railroad Bridge * Hammond Covered Bridge * Scott Covered Bridge * Shoreham Covered Railroad Bridge * Highgate Parabolic Truss Bridge * Madburyville Iron Bridge *

Elsa Gilbertson, Regional Historic Site Administrator
State of Vermont, Agency of Commerce and Community Development,
Division for Historic Preservation

Response:

Thank you for your comments.